Plainfield Nov. 12th 1854

To
S. May Jr
Resp'd Frd.

Charles has ret'd home, & having no objections I sho'd reply to your questions, if I desire to do so, he will assist me where my knowledge is insufficient, or my memory is at fault.

Charles Callistus Burleigh, the third child of his parents, was born in Plainfield Ct. on Nov. 3rd 1810. His parents, Rinaldo Burleigh of Ashford, and Lydia Bradford, of Canterbury Ct. (a lineal descendant of Gov. Bradford of Plymouth Colony) were both members, & the former, Deacon of the Orthodox Congregational Church.

Charles was educated at Plainfield Academy, of which his father was preceptor, & testifies that Chas. was fitted for College at 12½ years of age, whither he wo'd have been sent, but for their limited means. He worked on the farm until he was 15 years old, going to school no more with the exception of two or three months in each of the winters succeeding the completion of his 12th & 13th years. At 15 he began to teach school winters, and worked on the farm

summers, until he was 20 when he commenced studying Law under Zachriah Eddy of Middleboro' Mass. (still teaching school in the winters for three years, to defray expenses,) During the latter part of this time, he assisted in conducting an Anti Masonic paper called "We the People", devoted partly to Anti-Slavery & published in Plymouth. He then returned to Plainfield Ct and finished his course of legal study in the office of Judge Eaton of that place, and was admitted to the bar of Windham County Ct. in the spring of 1835.

He felt an "interest in the subject of Anti-Slavery" from his earliest recollections, but it first took a definite & decided form at the time of the commencement of the Liberator, of the contents of which he was a reader from the first. His first public labor in the great cause was in the spring of 1833, occasioned by the excitement growing out of the opening of Prudence Crandell's school for colored girls, in Canterbury Ct. of which school his only sister, Mary, was an assistant teacher. At the time he was a student in Judge Eaton's office, & occasionally gave Anti Slavery lectures in the evenings, besides now & then writing articles for the papers. In the summer of this year, he commenced editing "The Unionist", (not the Disunionist, as he would have it now probably, if he were in that business) an A.S. paper published in Brooklyn Ct. mainly on account of the impossibility of getting a fair hearing for Miss Crandell's

enterprise, in the previously existing papers of the region.

He was invited to this charge by Samuel J. May & Dr. Whitcomb of Brooklyn who visiting him for the purpose, found him busy in the hay-field with his sleeves rolled up, looking as rough as any of the oldest fishermen could have looked, when called upon to work in the Lord's Vineyard. Like them he too, left all & obeyed the summons.

Besides the "Unionist", he has edited the "Penn. Freeman" at Philad.a (for several years beginning in 1840) the "Voice of Freedom" at Montpelier Vt. (from June 1842, one year) and at one or two short intervals of Mr. Garrison's absence from Boston, assisted in editing "The Liberator". One of these periods was immediately after the "Mob of Property & Standing". In 1834 he occasionally assisted Benj.n Lundy in editing the "National Enquirer" in Philad.a

He first engaged as a Lecturing Agent for the Middlesex Co.y (Mass) A.S. Soc.y in the spring of 1835, setting out upon his work upon the afternoon of the day he was admitted to the Bar, since which time he has never lacked for clients, if he has for fees! He has continued in that employment the greater part of the time since, sometimes as agent of the American, sometimes of the Pennsylvanian, Vermont, Massachusetts, or other local A.S. Soc.y & often as an independent lecturer. You know perhaps that he has also labored at intervals, in behalf of Temperance Peace, Abolition of Capital Punishment, Woman's Rights & other reforms. He spent the winter of 1837-8 in a visit to the Island of Hayti, some account of which he gave in letters published in

the "Delaware County (Pa.) Republican".

He married your humble servant in 184- in the month of Oct, on the 24th day of the month, & secon of the week, at 12 o'clk. meridian, and almost ever sin then has made her heart to bleed, by continuing to ge "to & fro in the earth & wlg. & down in it" like "his illustri predecessor"! — We have, (tho you didn't ask!) two sons, w give promise of being Sons of Anak, & a daughter n unworthy the good time coming! —

All Charles brothers who lived beyond infancy, — John Q., (deceased 1848) William H., Lucian, Lyrus M. (deceased in 1855) and Geo. S., have spoken publi ally or written, in behalf of Anti "Slavery & other truths" Georye alone, has never spoken in public.

The "tracts Chas. has written" are "Thoug on the Death Penalty" "The Sabbath Question" & Slavery & the Na

There is nothing else for me to add that I can think of, except, that he is the best man that ever was, & spite of what Old Mr. Stone says, as reported in Harper, is so good look that my modesty will not permit me to tell all I think about that! —

There now, aint I a good girl to wr all this? I trust your friend is smart enough make out of it a good story "founded upon fact", and that, as some reward for my labor will send a copy to,

Yours Ird,

Gertrude K. Burleigh

S. M. J.

MS. B. L. L. v. 6. p. 69